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COMMITTEE ON RELATIONS WITH THE
HOST COUNTRY

LETTER DATED 24 MARCH 1997 FROM THE CHARGE D'AFFAIRES A.I. OF CÔTE D'IVOIRE ADDRESSED TO THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE ON RELATIONS WITH THE HOST COUNTRY

I have the honour to ask you, as Chairman of the Committee on Relations with the Host Country, to have the text of the note verbale dated 24 March 1997 from the Permanent Mission of Côte d'Ivoire to the United Nations addressed to the United States Mission to the United Nations issued as a document of the Committee (see annex).

The note in question refers to an incident of which the Mission of Côte d'Ivoire was victim on Thursday, 20 March 1997.

(Signed) Diénébou KABA CAMARA

97-08120 (E) 260397 260397

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ANNEX

Note verbale dated 24 March 1997 from the Permanent Mission of Côte d'Ivoire to the United Nations addressed to the United States Mission to the United Nations

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire to the United Nations presents its compliments to the United States Mission to the United Nations and has the honour to refer to the issue of the parking of diplomatic vehicles in New York City.

In this connection, the Permanent Mission of Côte d'Ivoire wishes to inform the United States Mission of an incident of which it was a victim on Thursday, 20 March 1997. At around 8.30 that day, one of the vehicles belonging to the Mission of Côte d'Ivoire was towed away by a police officer from 129th Street, in Manhattan, even though it was properly parked as were all the other vehicles on that same street.

The chauffeur of the Mission went shortly thereafter to the marshal's office on 40th Street to find out why the vehicle had been towed, and was handed a note (see appendix) which stated that the vehicle in question had been removed because it had accumulated a number of unpaid parking tickets.

The Permanent Mission of Côte d'Ivoire immediately contacted the Office of Foreign Missions of the United States Mission; the latter did not secure the vehicle's release until about 4 in the afternoon.

The Permanent Mission of Côte d'Ivoire would like to point out that, as far as it knows, the new measures envisaged by New York City are not scheduled to come into effect until 1 April. Moreover, these measures do not include the towing away of vehicles as penalty for unpaid parking tickets.

In fact, the document concerning the new measures decided upon by New York City states quite clearly that, in the event of repeated violations of the parking laws, the owner of the vehicle would receive a notification from the Office of Foreign Missions informing him that he could no longer lawfully use his vehicle as long as the tickets remained unpaid.

The Permanent Mission of Côte d'Ivoire did not receive any such notification and - and this is without precedent - one of its vehicles was towed away by the police authorities for non-payment of earlier parking tickets.

The Permanent Mission of Côte d'Ivoire would like to express its disapproval regarding such conduct which runs counter to the privileges and immunities accorded to diplomatic agents and missions by the Vienna Convention of 1961, and it hopes that such incidents will be avoided in future.

APPENDIX

George Airday
MARSHAL, CITY OF NEW YORK
110 WEST 40 STREET
NEW YORK, N.Y. 10018
TEL: (212) 354-7666

9-5

PAY

15 FLOOR

DOWN

WHEN CALLING GIVE YOUR PVB#: 44743 DATE TOWED:_____

YEAR / MAKE OF CAR:_____ PLATE#_____ STATE:_____

NOTICE:
Your vehicle was impounded by City Marshal Airday pursuant to a judgment obtained by the N.Y.C. Parking Violations Bureau for unpaid parking tickets (C.P.L.R. Article 4, Sect. 5239 & 5240 and V.T.L. 241 (a).

-To redeem your vehicle call the office of Marshal Airday Monday to Friday 9 AM until 5 PM. You need your license plate number, year and make of your car and the date towed. You will be told the exact amount of money due.

-Payment must be in CASH only.

NOTE: YOUR PAYMENT OF MONIES FOR PVB SUMMONSES IS ONLY FOR SUMMONSES IN JUDGMENT AS OF THE DATE OF SEIZURE. YOU MAY OBTAIN A PRINTOUT OF JUDGMENT AND NONJUDGMENT SUMMONSES AT PVB'S LOCATIONS:

31 Chambers Str. Main floor, or 1 Centre Str. Manhattan Help Center
Brooklyn Help Center, 210 Joralemon Str. 9th floor; Bronx Help Center, 1400 W.T.Lambridge Road
Queens Help Center, 89-41 162nd Str., Jamaica NY; Staten Island Help Center, 350 St. Marks Pl., 3rd Floor
(Information Phone 212 788-7000 OR THE PVB HELP LINE 212 977-9450)

THE TOTAL DUE INCLUDES:
JUDGMENT AMOUNT: .....$ 12,804.39
TOWING CHARGES:.....$ 150.00 TOWED or $75.00 IF NOT TOWED
IMPOUNDMENT: .....$ 45.00
MARSHAL'S FEE 5% of total.....$ 649.96
TAX ON TOW: .....$12.38 or $6.19 IF NOT TOWED
EXPENSES: MAIL/DMV INQUIRY $ 0

TOTAL DUE CASH ONLY: $ 13,661.73

GARAGE:
WABC TOW CO. INC., LOCATED AT

W.A.B.C. TOWING CORP.
1363 WESTCHESTER AVE
BRONX, NY 10459

MUST SHOW MARSHAL'S RELEASE FORM TO PICK UP VEHICLE.

NOTE: THERE IS A $10.00 (PLUS TAX) PER DIEM STORAGE CHARGE FOR EACH DAY THEY WILL BE HOLDING YOUR CAR. THE CHARGE IS BY CALENDAR DAY: THE GARAGE WILL COLLECT A FULL DAY CHARGE FOR ANY DAY OR PART OF A DAY THE CAR IS HELD.

You must bring your driver's license and registration card when redeeming your vehicle and document your authority to possess the vehicle if it is not registered to you. GET A NOTARIZED LETTER FROM THE REGISTERED OWNER GIVING YOU PERMISSION TO PICK IT UP. You may obtain a release to remove PERSONAL property from the impounded vehicle only with proper ID. Property that belongs to someone else must have sales receipt or appropriate documentation. Vehicle must be currently registered or must be TOWED out from the garage.

YOUR VEHICLE CAN BE SOLD AT PUBLIC AUCTION UNLESS REDEEMED WITHIN 10 DAYS!!! BALANCE OWED ON JUDGMENT REMAINS DUE.

GEORGE AIRDAY
CITY MARSHAL
rbecs3.prb 4-3-96